



BOROUGH of BOSTON

and

BOSTON

PORT HEALTH AUTHORITY

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER of HEALTH

and of the

CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

For the Year 1956



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COUNCILLOR E. A. ARNOLD, *Vice-Chairman.*

THE MAYOR, COUNCILLOR Mrs. B. M. ROE, J.P.

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„ R. E. NICHOLSON.

„ Mrs. E. M. VALENTINE.

„ E. B. WILLIS, J.P.

STAFF OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Medical Officer of Health and Port Medical Officer of Health :

W. G. SMEATON, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H., Barrister-at-Law

Chief Public Health Inspector and Port Health Inspector :

G. E. CHAMBERLAIN, M.P.H.I.A.

Meat and Food Inspector :

J. F. ASPINALL

(Commenced duties 1st February, 1956)

Additional Public Health Inspectors :

H. GREGORY

(Resigned March, 1956)

G. FOX, M.P.H.I.A.

(Resigned April, 1956)

N. MORRIS, M.P.H.I.A.

(Commenced duties 1st October, 1956)

P. WHITTON

(Commenced duties 1st October, 1956)

Chief Clerk :

D. DADY

BOROUGH OF BOSTON AND PORT HEALTH AUTHORITY

To :—The Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors of the Borough of Boston.

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting to you my Annual Report on the health of the Borough and on the work of the Public Health Department for the year 1956.

Once again I am happy to report a good standard of health in the Borough. Both the Birth and Death Rates continue to be maintained at satisfactory levels, and in this respect it is encouraging to note an excess of 200 births over the number of deaths. There have been no deaths from maternal causes.

With the exception of an epidemic of Measles which occurred towards the end of the year there has been no unusual prevalence of infectious diseases.

New houses continued to be erected at the same rate as last year but a shortage of Public Health Inspectors has slowed the rate of progress with the slum clearance programme.

Shortage of staff has caused considerable difficulties but these have now been remedied and it is anticipated that the department will be in a better position to carry out more inspections in the incoming year.

It is pleasing to know that a start has been made on the West Side Sewerage Scheme, but it is again emphasised that in the

interests of health, work on this project should receive the utmost priority.

In conclusion, I wish to record my appreciation of the co-operation and courtesy shown to me by the Mayor and Members of the Council, and to acknowledge the assistance given to me by the Chief Public Health Inspector, Mr. G. E. Chamberlain, and all other officials of the Council.

I am,

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

W. G. SMEATON,

Medical Officer of Health.

Public Health Department,
8, Bridge Street,
BOSTON, Lincs.

Part I

SECTION A

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE BOROUGH

GENERAL STATISTICS:—

Area (in acres)	3,259
Home Population (Registrar-General's mid-year estimate for 1956)	24,240
Number of Inhabited Houses at end of 1956 (according to the Rate Books)	7,752
Rateable Value at 31st March, 1957	£328,816
Sum represented by a Penny Rate (Est.)	£1,260
Estimated average number of Persons per Inhabited House	3.1
Estimated average number of Persons per Acre	7.4
Average number of Inhabited Houses per Acre	2.4

SOCIAL CONDITIONS, ETC.:—

The social conditions of the area have remained unchanged during the year.

VITAL STATISTICS:—

Live Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated population (crude)	18.1
Live Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated population (adjusted)	17.7
Still Birth Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births	22.3
Death Rate per 1,000 of the population (crude)	9.8
Death Rate per 1,000 of the population (adjusted)	10.2
Maternal Mortality Rate (per 1,000 total births)	Nil
Death Rates of Infants under 1 year of age:—	
(a) All infants per 1,000 live births	29.7
(b) Legitimate infants, per 1,000 legitimate live births	26.6
(c) Illegitimate infants, per 1,000 illegitimate live births	80.0

Death Rates of Infants under 4 weeks of age:—

(a)	All infants, per 1,000 live births	20.5
(b)	Legitimate infants, per 1,000 legitimate live births	19.4
(c)	Illegitimate infants, per 1,000 illegitimate live births	40.0

OBSERVATIONS ON VITAL STATISTICS

In the following comments on the Vital Statistics both the crude birth and death rates are given together with the rates after adjustment by the Comparability Factors. These factors have been supplied by the Registrar-General, and are intended to afford a means of adjustment to allow for the differing age and sex distribution of the population in different areas. Consequently, the adjusted birth and death rates enable a more accurate comparison to be made with the corresponding rates in other areas.

It is also emphasised that undue significance should not be attached to rates which are based on very small numbers (e.g. infant mortality) and that a comparison of such rates with those in other areas, or with earlier years may have little statistical significance.

POPULATION :—

The Registrar-General's estimate of the home population for mid-1956 was 24,240, a decrease of 60 on the figure given for the previous year which was 24,300. The number of births for the year exceeded the number of deaths by 200.

BIRTHS :—

A total of 438 live births (236 males, 202 females) were registered during 1956. The resultant crude birth rate of 18.1 per 1,000 of the population and the adjusted rate of 17.7 show an increase on the corresponding rates for 1955 which were 15.6 and 15.3 respectively. The rate for the whole of England and Wales for 1956 was 15.7.

The number of illegitimate live births was 25 (19 males, 6 females) which is 5.7% of the total live births. The total illegitimate live births in 1955 was 21.

STILLBIRTHS :—

There were 10 stillbirths registered (6 males, 4 females) giving a stillbirth rate of 22.3 per 1,000 total live and stillbirths, as compared with 18.1 in 1955. The rate for England and Wales for 1956 was 23.0.

MATERNAL MORTALITY :—

There were no deaths under this heading in 1956.

INFANT MORTALITY :—

There were 13 deaths of infants under one year of age (7 males, 6 females), the resulting death rate per 1,000 live births being 29.7 as compared with 29.0 for the previous year. The rate for England and Wales for 1956 was 23.8.

The total number of infant deaths under 4 weeks of age was 9 (6 males, 3 females), giving a death rate of 20.5 per 1,000 live births, as compared with 21.1 in 1955.

DEATHS FROM ALL CAUSES :—

The actual number of deaths allocated to the Borough after deduction of those occurring in non-residents and addition of deaths of residents which occurred outside the Borough was 238. The resultant crude death rate of 9.8 per 1,000 of the population is lower than that for the previous year, namely 10.4, but as the result of a change in the Comparability Factor, the adjusted death rate of 10.2 per 1,000 of the population shows a slight increase on the corresponding rate of 10.1 for 1955.

The figure for the whole of England and Wales for 1956 was 11.7.

CAUSES OF DEATH IN BOSTON M.B., 1956.

No.	Cause of Death	Males	Females
1.	Tuberculosis, respiratory	1	1
2.	Tuberculosis, other	—	—
3.	Syphilitic disease	1	—
4.	Diphtheria	—	—
5.	Whooping Cough	—	—
6.	Meningococcal infections	—	—
7.	Acute Poliomyelitis	—	—
8.	Measles	—	—
9.	Other infective and parasitic diseases	—	—
10.	Malignant neoplasm, stomach	2	1
11.	Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	7	2
12.	Malignant neoplasm, breast	—	1
13.	Malignant neoplasm, uterus	—	3
14.	Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	15	12
15.	Leukæmia, aleukæmia	1	—
16.	Diabetes	—	1
17.	Vascular lesions of nervous system	13	19
18.	Coronary disease, angina	30	11

No.	Cause of Death						Males	Females
19.	Hypertension with heart disease	...	...	...	...	...	2	4
20.	Other heart disease	...	...	...	...	...	5	11
21.	Other circulatory disease	...	...	...	...	...	3	9
22.	Influenza	...	...	...	...	...	—	1
23.	Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	...	7	10
24.	Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	...	9	3
25.	Other diseases of respiratory system	...	...	...	...	...	3	—
26.	Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
27.	Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	...	...	...	...	...	1	—
28.	Nephritis and nephrosis	...	...	...	...	...	3	1
29.	Hyperplasia of prostate	...	...	...	...	...	4	—
30.	Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
31.	Congenital malformations	...	...	...	...	...	3	3
32.	Other defined and ill-defined diseases	...	...	...	...	...	10	12
33.	Motor vehicle accidents	...	...	...	...	...	2	1
34.	All other accidents	...	...	...	...	...	7	—
35.	Suicide	...	...	...	...	...	—	3
36.	Homicide and operations of war	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
ALL CAUSES							129	109

METEOROLOGICAL CONDITIONS

I am indebted to N. H. Middlebrook, Esq., Meteorologist, for the following summary of the weather conditions of the area for the past two years as recorded by him at the Meteorological Station, Freiston Road, Boston.

	1956	1955
Days of measurable rain	173	154
Mean maximum temperature (normal 56.7°) ...	55.0°	56.0°
Mean minimum temperature (normal 42.1°) ...	40.9°	41.5°
Mean day and night temperature (normal 49.4°)	47.9°	48.7°
Mean humidity at 09.00 hrs. G.M.T.	86%	84%
No. of days with temperatures between 70° and 79°	30	58
No. of days with temperatures 80° or over ...	Nil	9
No. of ground frosts	98	91
No. of days of snow or sleet	31	37
No. of days of fog (at 09.00 hrs. G.M.T.) ...	15	11
No. of days of thunderstorms	18	9
No. of days with winds reaching gale force ...	12	12

Total rainfall 23.85" against average of 24.18".

1956 can be put down as a year of extreme variations. Severe cold during the first two months, especially February, with heavy snowfalls. A generally dry Spring with a brilliantly fine May, followed in June, July and August by cool, dull and wet conditions. Most of September, October, November and December being outstandingly dry, and except for December, bright and sunny.

SECTION B

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE BOROUGH

LABORATORY FACILITIES :—

Advantage has again been taken of the Public Health Laboratory of the Medical Research Council at Lincoln. Samples of ice cream and water have been regularly submitted for examination and further details of this work will be found in Sections C and E.

The Laboratories of the Royal Institute of Public Health and Hygiene, London, have continued to carry out chemical examinations of water samples on behalf of the Department.

AMBULANCE SERVICE :—

This service is provided and maintained by the Holland County Council through the County Transport Department, Allan House, Carlton Road.

Four first line ambulances, including one of the most modern type, and five sitting case cars are based in the Borough. In addition an ambulance is reserved solely for the conveyance of infectious cases.

NURSING IN THE HOME :—

The home nursing service is under the control of the Local Health Authority.

PUBLIC MORTUARY :—

The Public Mortuary is managed by the Borough Engineer's Department. I am satisfied that the Mortuary is properly conducted and the facilities adequate.

HOSPITALS:—

All Hospitals in the area are under the control of the Boston Group Hospital Management Committee of the Sheffield Regional Hospital Board. Details of the facilities available in Boston and District are as follows:—

Boston General Hospital — Acute General.

London Road Hospital — Orthopædic and Acute General.

White House Hospital, Fishtoft — Infectious and Chest Diseases.

Wyberton West Hospital — Medical and Maternity.

Woodlands Court, Kirton — Aged Sick.

Freiston Hall Children's Hospital — Sick Children.

Bargate Clinic and Physiotherapy Centre, Boston —
Physiotherapy and Orthoptics

THE SCHOOL HEALTH SERVICES:—

These services are provided by the Holland County Council.

TREATMENT CENTRES AND CLINICS:—

Orthopædic, Chest (Tuberculosis), Venereal Diseases and Surgical Clinics are held weekly at the London Road Hospital.

Clinics are held at the Health Centre, London Road, for Infant Welfare, Ante-Natal, Ophthalmic, Dental, Minor Ailments, Speech Therapy, Heart and Child Guidance.

The Cleansing Station continues to function at the Health Centre, and further details with regard to the arrangements for the treatment of Scabies will be found in Section F of this Report.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948. SECTION 47. — REMOVAL TO SUITABLE PREMISES OF PERSONS IN NEED OF CARE AND ATTENTION:—

No new cases requiring action under the above Section came to notice during the year.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE SERVICES :—

In accordance with the National Health Service Act, 1946, these services are provided by the Holland County Council.

SECTION C

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE BOROUGH

WATER SUPPLY.

I am indebted to Mr. D. H. Ball, Water Engineer, for the following report on the Borough Water Supply:—

(A) **Rainfall.** The rainfall recorded at Revesby Waterworks during the year 1956 was 25.36" as against 23.37" in 1955, but deducting evaporation the run-off was only 9.89" in 1956 against an average of 11". Rainfall at Fordington was 26.10" compared with 25.12" in 1955.

(B) **Volume of water supplied from Revesby and Fordington and received in bulk from Boston R.D.C. with comparisons for 1955.**

Year.	Thousands of gallons.				average G.P.D.
	Revesby.	Fordington.	from Boston R.D.C.	Total.	
1956	198,940	277,203	159,781	635,924	1,738
1955	219,522	233,089	123,887	576,498	1,580
Increase +					
Decrease—	— 20,582	+ 44.114	+ 35,894	+ 59,426	+ 158

(C) **Volume of water supplied from Revesby and Fordington in bulk to the Rural District Councils of Horncastle and Spilsby with comparisons for 1955.**

Year.	Thousands of gallons.			Average G.P.D.
	Horncastle.	Spilsby.	Total.	
1956	33,684	24,043	57,727	158
1955	32,737	26,186	58,923	162
Increase +				
Decrease—	+ 947	— 2,143	— 1,196	— 4

The average gallons per day supplied within the Corporation's Statutory Area amount to 1,580,000 or 53 gallons per head per day for all purposes including waste.

It is estimated that the domestic consumption equates to approximately 30 gallons per head per day.

A waste detection scheme is in operation for the whole Statutory Area of Supply.

(D) Pressures.

Pressures in the town show considerable improvement on former years and the new 15" trunk main from Revesby to Frithville was brought into service in July, somewhat earlier than expected.

(E) Extensions and Renewals of mains during 1956

Borough.				Water Main Extensions 1956 Dia.	Type of pipe	Length yds.
1.	Woad Farm Housing Site (Burgess Close)			...	3"	A.C. 60
2.	Elmwood Avenue ... ..			...	4"	A.C. 200
3.	Broadfield Lane ... ..			...	3"	A.C. 43
4.	Fishtoft Road/Kingsway			...	4"	C.I. 137
						<hr/> 440
						<hr/> = .25 miles

Water Main Extensions 1956

Rural Area (within the Statutory Area of Supply)

					Dia.	Type of pipe	Length yds.
5.	Meridian Road	...	...	...	1½"	A.C.	63
	Housing Site	...	...	...	4"	A.C.	35
6.	New Bolingbroke Village			...	3"	A.C.	123
					4"	A.C.	143
7.	Miningsby	...	...	...	4"	A.C.	19
					4"	C.I.	14
							<hr/> 397 <hr/>
							= .23 miles

Water Main Renewals 1956

Borough		Dia. orig. new		Type of pipe	Length yds.
1.	Sleaford Road (End of Playing Field to Cut Drain Bridge)	2"	4"	A.C.	100
2.	Kingsway (Fishtoft Road to Woodthorpe Avenue Junction) 	2"	4"	C.I.	792
3.	Paddock Grove	2"	4"	C.I.	62
					<hr/> 954
					<hr/> = .54 miles

(F) **Quality of Water.**

- (1)a The water supply of the area has been, in my opinion, satisfactory throughout the year.
- (1)b The quantity of water available has been satisfactory.
- (2) Monthly samples of the raw water and treated water passing to supply at Revesby and Fordington are submitted to the Public Analyst for chemical and bacteriological analysis. No adverse report has been received. Copies of all reports are submitted to the Medical Officer of Health, who in turn supplies me with copies of reports received in respect of samples taken from the town mains at frequent intervals. It is hoped that one day iron removal and softening plant will be installed at Fordington.
- (3) The water has no plumbo-solvent action. No form of contamination detected.
- (4) The proportion of the houses in the Borough supplied by standpipes and outside taps is relatively small and mainly confined to old parts of the town.

1% of the approx. 7,000 houses are without a piped water supply. For the purpose of this report, standpipes and yard taps are treated as piped supplies.

D. H. BALL,
Borough Water Engineer.

12th April, 1957.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE :—

(a) West Side Sewerage Scheme :—

Alterations and installations of new air compressors and motors are taking place at Woodville Road Pumping Station and some machinery has been received in preparation for the proposed Pumping Station at London Road.

(b) Further extensions to sewers on Woad Farm Housing Site.

(c) Routine maintenance and sewer cleansing carried out.

PUBLIC CLEANSING AND SALVAGE SCHEMES :—

A weekly collection of house refuse has been maintained. Controlled tipping is carried on at the old Golf Course. Salvage collections of waste paper continue to be maintained at satisfactory levels.

Costs for the year ending 31st March, 1956, were :—

					£
Collection	...	...	...	...	£16,888
Disposal	...	...	...	...	£2,721
					<hr/> 19,609
Less income from salvage, trade refuse, etc.	...	...	...		6,616
					<hr/>
				Net cost	£12,993
					<hr/>
Weight per 1,000 of population	...	...	...	...	26.4 cwts.
Net cost per ton	...	...	...	...	22/2d.
Net cost per 1,000 of population	...	...	...	...	£534

SWIMMING BATHS :—

Owing to the shortage of staff through the Spring and Summer months very little supervision could be given to the baths. However, the County Public Health Inspector very kindly agreed to carry out routine sampling and I greatly appreciate the work he did. Forty-eight samples of bath water were analysed and with four exceptions those proved to be satisfactory. Owing to the prolonged cool spell in June, July and August comparatively little use was made of the baths and it was consequently easier to maintain the water in a reasonable condition.

As the new baths project appears to have been strangled by the credit squeeze, the decision to instal filtration plant in the existing baths is very welcome and it is hoped that this will be functioning before the baths reopen in 1958.

MEASURES AGAINST INFESTATION :—

(a) **Rodent Control :—**

The twice yearly sewer treatments appear to have eliminated rats from the major portion of the sewer system but there remains a hard core of mainly old sewers that so far have proved intractable. In future rather different methods will be tried with, it is hoped, more satisfactory results.

The number of surface infestations continues to decline, no doubt in part due to the fact that safe and satisfactory poisons are now on sale to the public who are thus able to prevent the odd pair of rats growing into a major infestation.

The following table gives comparative figures of the work done by the Pests Officer during the last three years.

Year.	No. of premises treated.	No. of bodies recovered.
1954	1051	427
1955	651	380
1956	385	602

(b) **Verminous Houses :—**

The number of premises treated for vermin is as follows :—

Bed Bugs	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
Fleas	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Cockroaches, Ants, etc.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	20

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTION IN THE BOROUGH :—

The following information has been supplied by Mr. G. E. Chamberlain, the Chief Public Health Inspector, who is also responsible for the preparation of the remainder of this section, Section D and much of Section E.

I regret to have to report an unsatisfactory year's work owing to an acute shortage of staff. At the end of March the two additional public health inspectors both resigned, one to go back to Sheffield and the other to take an appointment with the Boston Rural District Council. Despite repeated advertisements costing approximately £80, the vacant posts were not filled until the 1st October when Mr. P. Whitton, of Southampton and Mr. N. Morris,

of Blackburn, commenced duties. During the remainder of the year they worked very well to make up some of the considerable leeway that had resulted from six months of depleted staff. From April to October hardly any routine work was done as the two remaining inspectors had difficulty in dealing with meat inspection and the various day to day jobs requiring immediate attention and I wish to record my sincere appreciation of the work performed by Mr. J. F. Aspinall, the meat inspector, who worked untiringly for very long hours including the majority of week-ends and who performed any and every task given to him.

The prospects for 1957 appear much brighter and noticeable progress is being made with inspections under the Food Hygiene Regulations. Very little of this work was possible in 1956 but it is encouraging to note that many firms have carried out work on their own initiative and the advice of this department is being sought to an increasing extent.

INSPECTIONS:—

Dwellings.

Inspected under the Housing Act, 1936	128
Inspected under the Public Health Act, 1936	356
	— 484

Re-inspections.

Under the Housing Act, 1936	192
Under the Public Health Act, 1936	320
	— 512
Overcrowding	65
Smoke Observations	18
Offensive Trades	2
Common Lodging Houses	7
Moveable Dwellings	37
Butchers' Shops	18
Prepared Food Premises	3
Ice Cream Premises	8
Restaurant Kitchens	4
Bakehouses	15
Fried Fish Shops	2
Food Shops and Premises	51
Market Stalls	79
Food and Drugs Act Revisits	25

Food Poisoning Investigations	...	...	...	24
Food Poisoning Revisits	...	...	...	32
Dysentery Investigations	...	...	...	36
Dysentery Revisits	...	...	...	70
Factories	...	...	...	45
Factories Revisits	...	...	...	17
Dairies	...	...	...	19
Slaughterhouses	...	...	...	4,139
Rat Infestation	...	...	...	13
Port Sanitary—Vessels Inspected	...	...	...	129
Shops (under the Shops Acts)	...	...	...	4
Pet Animals Act Inspections	...	...	...	3
Infectious Diseases	...	...	...	13
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	148
TOTAL				6,022

Samples Taken.

Water

Public Supply	...	...	...	...	...	...	47
Other	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
							48
Mussels	...	...	...	...	...	...	20
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	...	...	2

Drains and Sewers.

Drains Tested	...	...	...	...	...	38
Drains Cleared	...	...	...	...	...	43
Sewers Cleared	...	...	...	...	...	344

OFFICE WORK:—

Informal Notices.

Served. Complied with.

Housing Act, 1936	...	...	63	74
Public Health Act, 1936	...	...	42	45
Dustbin	...	...	51	54

Statutory Notices.					Served.	Complied with.
Housing Act, 1936, Sec. 9	...				2	3
Public Health Act, 1936			30	48
Dustbin	6	5
Conversions	3	3

PREMISES DISINFECTED:—

Tuberculosis	1
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NUISANCES REPORTED AND COMPLAINTS RECEIVED:—

Total number of complaints received	575
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The following are details of complaints received and remedied:—

Defective Dustbins	8
General Housing Complaints	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	62
Defective W.C.'s	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	12
Fleas, beetles, etc.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Ants	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	7
Wasps' nests	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Rats and Mice	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	141
Choked drains and sewers	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	278
Smoke nuisance	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Other nuisances	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	30
Defective yard and passage paving	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Cesspools	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Overcrowding	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	14

NUISANCES FROM PREMISES OTHER THAN DWELLINGS :—

Factories	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Chickens	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Ditches	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1

DEFECTS FOUND AND REMEDIED DURING THE YEAR :—

Defect	No. found	No. Remedied	
		(a) Informally	(b) By Statutory Action
Roofs	47	44	12
Chimneys	4	5	2
Pointing of external walls	10	19	—
Brickwork	8	10	—
Gutters and down pipes	44	35	11
Boundary walls or fences	2	2	—
Wall plaster	45	32	6
Ceiling plaster	28	17	2
Doors and door frames	22	12	2
Windows and window frames ..	24	8	4
Sash cords	25	10	4
Floors (solid)	4	4	2
Floor boards	13	8	2
Skirtings	1	2	2
Firegrates or ranges	15	10	7
Treads and risers	1	3	—
W.C. roofs	4	5	1
W.C. walls	6	2	1
W.C. doors and door frames ..	8	7	—
W.C. pans	10	17	6
W.C. flushing cisterns	9	25	6
W.C. flushing pipes	10	22	5
W.C. water service pipes	20	29	6
Yard and passage paving	9	6	4
Drains	7	6	4
Sewers	—	—	2
Inspection chambers	3	3	—
Dustbins	51	54	5
Water supply	5	8	—
Sinks	2	7	—
Sink waste pipes	4	9	—
Yard gullies	5	10	—
Cesspools	1	1	—

Other Items

WATER—

It is regretted that it was impossible to maintain the usual frequency of water sampling but during the year 39 samples were submitted for bacteriological examination and 8 for chemical analysis. Credit is due to the Water Engineer that not one sample was reported upon adversely.

The following table classifies the results of the samples examined bacteriologically.

Class I	Class II	Class III (suspicious)	Class IV (unsatisfactory)
38	1	Nil	Nil

COMMON LODGING HOUSES:—

There is still only one registered common lodging house in the Borough. A considerable amount of repair work has been carried out and the building has had a major spring clean but it remains a very difficult task to maintain even a modest standard of cleanliness.

FACTORIES :—

The inspection of factories is one of the items that has suffered badly owing to staff shortage and apart from food factories and a small number of premises surveyed under Sec. 34 of the Factories Act, 1937, inspections have been confined to those factories in respect of which notice of default has been received from H.M. Factory Inspector.

The following tables give particulars of the visits made to factories during 1956. The number of defects found was small and these were dealt with informally.

Inspections.

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written notices	Occupiers prosecuted
Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities.	15	12	5	Nil
Factories not included in above in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	199	67	9	Nil
Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	21	Nil	Nil	Nil
Total	235	79	14	Nil

Cases in which defects were found.

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found				No. of cases in which prosecutions were instituted.
	Found	Remedied	Referred		
			To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness (S.1) ..	5	4	Nil	5	Nil
Overcrowding (S.2)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7) :					
(a) Insufficient	7	4	Nil	7	Nil
(b) Unsuitable or defective	7	4	Nil	7	Nil
(c) Not separate for sexes	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork) ..	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Total	19	12	Nil	19	Nil

OUTWORKERS' PREMISES:—

There is only one registered outworker in the Borough, a lady who for many years has made hairnets for a London firm. The premises are satisfactory.

SECTION D

HOUSING

Number of Houses erected in the Borough during the year:—

	Houses	Bungalows	Flats
(a) By private enterprise ...	33	14	Nil
(b) By the Council	76	24	Nil

Number under construction at the end of 1956 :—

	Houses	Bungalows	Flats
(a) By private enterprise ...	8	23	Nil
(b) By the Council	72	12	Nil

REPAIR AND DEMOLITION :—

(1)	Number of houses repaired as a result of informal action	156
(2) (a)	Number of houses repaired as a result of the service of notices under section 9, Housing Act, 1936	3
(b)	Number of houses repaired as a result of the service of notices under the Public Health Act, 1936	46
(3) (a)	Number of houses in respect of which demolition orders were made	17
(b)	Number of houses in respect of which undertakings were accepted	4
(c)	Number of houses in respect of which closing orders under section 10, Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1953 were made	1
(d)	Number of houses in respect of parts of which closing orders under Section 12, Housing Act, 1936, were made	1

SLUM CLEARANCE

Compulsory Purchase Orders were made in respect of 8 houses in King Street, 4 in Burgess Row and 10 in Shodfriar's Lane, a total of 22 houses. Objections were lodged by the owners of 8 houses but 3 of these were subsequently withdrawn. A public inquiry was held early in 1957.

The re-housing of the occupants of the Queen Street clearance area was almost completed and the last house in Goodbarn's Yard was vacated. The 12 houses in the Lincoln Lane clearance area were demolished and a start was made with the demolition of Goodbarn's Yard.

SECTION E

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

SLAUGHTERHOUSES AND MEAT INSPECTION:—

A marked increase was recorded in the number of carcasses inspected, the figure being considerably higher than that for any previous year. For six months of the year this work was done by two inspectors upon whom it placed a very considerable burden, involving continuous evening and week-end work in addition to normal hours.

The number of carcasses killed is not recorded owing to the difficulty of keeping an accurate record when eleven slaughter-houses are in use. However, it is known to be very close to the number of carcasses inspected as every endeavour is made to carry out 100% inspection although as a result other work must suffer.

Last year the hope was expressed that when the new regulations governing standards of construction and hygiene in slaughter-houses were published it would be possible to enforce a considerable improvement in these respects. The same hope is even more fervently expressed this year as the regulations have not yet appeared.

The following tables give details of the numbers of carcasses inspected and the amount of meat condemned.

Carcases and Offal inspected and condemned in whole or in part

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number killed (if known)	—	—	—	—	—	—
Number inspected ..	4283	1952	1027	13667	40760	Nil
All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci :						
Whole carcasses condemned	15	37	12	31	122	—
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	1094		5	47	1392	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci	18.4		1.6	.6	3.7	—
Tuberculosis only :						
Whole carcasses condemned	29	87	4	—	24	—
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	858		1	1	1117	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis ..	15.6		.5	.01	2.8	—
Cysticercosis :						
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	9	2	—	—	—	—
Carcasses submitted to treatment by refrigeration	9	2	—	—	—	—
Generalised and totally condemned	—	—	—	—	—	—

Meat Destroyed

	Beef	Mutton	Pork	Total
Carcases whole with offal	184	31	146	361
Forequarters	54	Nil	5	59
Hindquarters	11	Nil	Nil	11
Plucks	Nil	8	173	181
Heads and Tongues ..	571	7	1076	1654
Livers	1029	37	412	1478
Lungs	776	Nil	124	900
Intestines	47	3	31	81
Miscellaneous	438	8	1342	1788
Meat	7cwts. 30lbs.	40lbs.	1cwt. 102lbs.	9cwts. 60lbs.

MILK AND OTHER FOODS :—

It has not been possible to devote as much time as is considered desirable to the inspection of food premises but visits have been made as frequently as possible, particular attention being paid to those places where the standard is known to be low. Particulars as to the numbers of premises inspected appear in Section C.

ACTION UNDER REGULATION 20, MILK AND DAIRIES REGULATIONS, 1949 :—

No action was necessary under the above Regulation during 1956.

FOOD POISONING :—

There were no outbreaks of Food Poisoning in the Borough during the year. Fifteen sporadic cases involving ten families were notified and all were later confirmed. In no case was it possible to recover any samples of the suspected foods for examination, but from samples of faeces the infecting agents were revealed as Salmonella Anatum, Salmonella Typhi-murium, Salmonella Bredeney and Salmonella Cholerae Suis.

BYE-LAWS UNDER SECTION 15, FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938 :—

The enforcement of the bye-laws has not created any difficulties, such breaches as have been observed being dealt with by verbal or written warnings.

ICE-CREAM :—

During the year five more premises were registered for the sale of ice-cream, but none for manufacture. The majority of

these sell only wrapped ice cream and as far as possible the sale of unwrapped ice cream is discouraged.

It is very much regretted that owing to shortage of staff no samples were taken.

SECTION F

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES

Table I shows the total number of infectious diseases notified during the year, the numbers admitted to hospital, and the total number of deaths.

Measles :—Towards the end of the year an epidemic of Measles commenced in the Borough, and of the 152 cases notified in 1956, 130 were reported during November and December. The number of cases notified in 1955 was 277.

Whooping Cough :—The number of cases notified increased from 25 in 1955 to 56 in 1956. Again the majority of the cases (48) were notified during November and December.

Chicken Pox :—An appreciable decrease in the incidence of this disease resulted in 70 cases being notified as compared with 462 in the previous year.

Pneumonia :—The number of confirmed cases was 38 as compared with 45 in 1955. 13 cases were admitted to hospital and there were 4 deaths.

Scarlet Fever :—Only 15 cases were notified as compared with 38 in 1955. 2 cases were admitted to hospital.

Scabies :—9 cases were notified as compared with 14 in the previous year. In 3 cases treatment was provided by the patient's own doctor, whilst the remaining cases received treatment at the Boston Cleansing Station.

The Holland County Council provides treatment for cases of Scabies occurring in the Borough, the cost of such treatments in respect of persons other than school children being charged to the Corporation. Should medical practitioners request treatment for patients, details of notifications are immediately passed to the County Council thus ensuring that infected persons receive early treatment.

Table I.
Notifiable Diseases during the Year 1956

Disease	Cases Notified	Confirmed Cases	Cases admitted to Hospital	Deaths
Chicken Pox	70	70	Nil	Nil
Dysentery	5	5	Nil	Nil
Erysipelas	3	3	Nil	Nil
Food Poisoning ..	15	15	2	Nil
Measles	152	152	3	Nil
Paratyphoid Fever ..	1	Nil	1	Nil
Pneumonia	39	38	13	4
Puerperal Pyrexia	4	4	3	Nil
Scabies	9	9	Nil	Nil
Scarlet Fever	15	15	2	Nil
Whooping Cough ..	56	56	1	Nil

TUBERCULOSIS:—

Cases notified within the Borough come under the control of Dr. A. M. Forrest, Chest Physician, South Lincolnshire Area.

Table II.
TUBERCULOSIS.
Showing New Cases and Deaths.

Age Periods	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0—1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1—5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5—15	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15—25	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
25—35	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
35—45	3	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
45—55	—	1	1	—	1	—	—	—
55—65	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
Over 65	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total	4	2	2	—	1	1	—	—

IMMUNISATION AGAINST DIPHTHERIA :—

All arrangements in connection with immunisation within the Borough are under the control of the Holland County Council.

The following figures, supplied by the County Health Department, give details of the number of immunisations carried out during the year.

Under 1 year	...	...	...	...	...	...	270
1 and under 5 years	...	...	...	...	...	...	57
5—14 years	...	...	...	...	...	...	43
							—370
Number of Booster Injections	...	...	...				297

The percentage of children immunised in relation to the child population is as follows :—

Under 1 year	...	...	...	...	...	...	19.4%
1 and under 5 years	...	...	...	...	...	...	80.8%
5—14 years	...	...	...	...	...	...	81.5%

The response to immunisation has again been reasonably satisfactory but the public are reminded that full advantage should be taken of these services.

VACCINATION AGAINST SMALLPOX :—

Primary Vaccinations :

Under 1 year	...	...	...	...	...	...	132
1 year	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
2—4 years	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
5—14 years	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
15 years and over	...	...	...	...	...	...	20
							—162

Re-vaccinations :

5—14 years	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
15 years and over	...	...	...	...	...	...	17
							—21

VACCINATION AGAINST POLIOMYELITIS :—

21 children were vaccinated against Poliomyelitis during the year. Supplies of vaccine will probably be more plentiful in the incoming year.

ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
AND OF THE
CHIEF PORT HEALTH INSPECTOR

PART II
BOSTON PORT HEALTH AUTHORITY

Year ended 31st December, 1956.

BOSTON PORT HEALTH AUTHORITY

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1956

To : The Mayor, Aldermen and Burgesses
of the Borough of Boston,
being the Boston Port Health Authority, as constituted by
the Boston Port Orders, 1933 and 1939.

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have much pleasure in presenting to you my Annual Report on the Health Administration of the Port of Boston during the year ended 31st December, 1956. The Report has been compiled in accordance with the requirements of Form Port 20 of the Ministry of Health, and the information under certain Sections which has not varied from the preceding year is indicated "No Change."

Once again the Port has enjoyed a satisfactory trading period. Although the number of vessels entering the Dock decreased from 1,002 in 1955 to 966 in 1956, vessels arriving from foreign ports for the same comparative years increased from 623 to 682. There has again been little change in the nature of the cargo traffic or in the foreign ports from which ships arrived.

As will be seen from a perusal of the Report, the Health Administration continues to function in a satisfactory manner, and in this respect it is gratifying to report that there were again no diseases of an infectious nature.

In conclusion, I wish to express my thanks to all concerned for their co-operation and assistance throughout the year.

I am,

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

W. G. SMEATON,
Port Medical Officer of Health.

Public Health Department,
8, Bridge Street,
BOSTON, Lincs.

February, 1957.

SECTION I—Staff

TABLE A

Name of officer	Nature of appointment	Date of appointment	Qualifications	Any other appointments held
SMEATON, W. G.	Port Medical Officer of Health	1-7-50	M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H. Barrister-at-Law.	Assistant C.M.O.—Holland County Council. Medical Officer of Health—Borough of Boston. Medical Officer of Health—Boston R.D.C.
CHAMBERLAIN, G. E.	Chief Port Health Inspector	15-10-45	Cert. S.I.B., Cert. Meat & Food Inspector.	Chief Public Health Inspector—Borough of Boston.
MORRIS, N.	Additional Port Health Inspector	1-10-56	Cert. S.I.B.	Additional Public Health Inspector—Borough of Boston.
WHITTON, P. E.	Additional Port Health Inspector	1-10-56	Cert. S.I.B.	Additional Public Health Inspector—Borough of Boston.

Address and telephone number of the Medical Officer of Health.

} Public Health Department,
8, Bridge Street, BOSTON, Lincs.
BOSTON 2639.

SECTION II—Amount of shipping entering the district during the year.

TABLE B

Ships from	Number	Tonnage	Number Inspected		Number of ships reported as having, or having had during the voyage, infectious disease on board
			By the Medical Officer of Health	By the Port Health Inspectors	
Foreign Ports	682	152,438	16	107	Nil
Coastwise	284	53,244	Nil	22	Nil
Total	966	205,682	16	129	Nil

SECTION III—Character of shipping and trade during the year.

TABLE C

PASSENGER TRAFFIC ..	Number of passengers INWARDS : 158. Number of passengers OUTWARDS : 85.
CARGO TRAFFIC ..	Principal IMPORTS : Battens and Boards, Bulbs, Clay, Deals, Feeding Stuffs, Fertilizers, Flour, Fruit and Vegetables, Grain, Paper, Perlite, Petroleum, Potatoes, Sleepers, Starch, Steel Bars, etc., Telegraph Poles, Tinplate and Waggon Bottoms. Principal EXPORTS : Coal, Feeding Stuffs, Grain, Pig Iron, Steel Bars and General.
PRINCIPAL PORTS from which ships arrive ..	<p>BALEARIC ISLANDS : Palma.</p> <p>BELGIUM : Antwerp, Ghent, Hanswert, Vlissingen, Zeebrugge.</p> <p>CYPRUS : Famagusta.</p> <p>DENMARK : Aalborg, Fredericia, Nykobing.</p> <p>EGYPT : Alexandria.</p> <p>FINLAND : Hamina, Haukipudas, Helsinki, Kasko, Kemi, Kotka, Raumo, Toppila.</p> <p>FRANCE : Bayonne, Bordeaux, Dunkirk, Gravelines.</p> <p>GERMANY : Bremen, Emden, Hamburg, Rostock, Wismar.</p> <p>HOLLAND : Amsterdam, Delfzyl, Harlingen, Maassluis, Middelharnis, Rotterdam, Terneuzen, Ymuiden.</p> <p>NORWAY : Aardalstangen, Arendal, Halden, Oslo, Porsgrunn, Skien, Sundalsora, Tyssedal.</p> <p>POLAND : Gdansk, Stettin.</p> <p>RUSSIA : Archangel, Igarka, Kaliningrad, Kem, Leningrad.</p> <p>SARDINIA : Cagliari.</p> <p>SPAIN : Barcelona, Burriana, Seville, Valencia.</p> <p>SWEDEN : Burea, Falkenberg, Gefle, Gothenburg, Hudiksvall, Karlshamn, Karlskrona, Kopmanholmen, Monsteraas, Norrkoping, Soderhamn.</p>

SECTION IV—Inland barge traffic.

No inland barge traffic entered the port during the year.

SECTION V—Water Supply

I. Source of supply for

(a) The District.

(b) Shipping.

NO CHANGE.

2. Reports of tests for contamination.

NO CHANGE.

3. Precautions taken against contamination of hydrants and hosepipes.

NO CHANGE.

4. Number and sanitary condition of water boats, and powers of control by the Authority.

There are no water boats in the Port.

NO CHANGE.

SECTION VI—Public Health (Ships) Regulations, 1952

I. List of Infected Areas. (Regulation 6).

Arrangements for the preparation and amendment of the list, the form of the list, the persons to whom it is supplied, and the procedure for supplying it to those persons.

The Port Manager, the Pilot Master and H.M. Customs are each supplied with a list of infected areas which is amended as necessary from the Weekly Epidemiological Record published by the World Health Organisation.

2. Radio Messages.

(a) Arrangements for sending permission by radio for ships to enter the district. (Regulation 13).

(b) Arrangements for receiving messages by radio from ships and for acting thereon. (Regulation 14 (1) (a) and (2)).

Boston is not a radio transmitting or receiving port.

NO CHANGE.

3. Notifications otherwise than by radio. (Regulation 14 (1) (b)).

Arrangements for receiving notifications otherwise than by radio and for acting thereon.

NO CHANGE.

4. Mooring Stations. (Regulations 22 to 30).

Situation of stations, and any standing directions issued under these Regulations.

NO CHANGE.

5. Arrangements for :—

- (a) Hospital accommodation for infectious diseases (other than smallpox—see Section VII) :

Such accommodation is available at the White House Hospital, Fishtoft.

- (b) Surveillance and follow up of contacts :

NO CHANGE.

- (c) Cleansing and disinfection of ships, persons, clothing and other articles :

NO CHANGE.

SECTION VII—Smallpox

1. Name of Isolation Hospital to which smallpox cases are sent from the district.

All cases of smallpox are sent to the Laceby Smallpox Hospital.

2. Arrangements for transport of such cases to that hospital by ambulance, giving the name of the Authority responsible for the ambulance and the vaccinal state of the ambulance crews.

Arrangements have been made with the Medical Officer of Health for Grimsby that in all cases of smallpox the Isolation Hospital, Laceby, will provide ambulances and crews consisting of specially trained and vaccinated teams of attendants.

3. Names of smallpox consultants available.

Dr. J. H. C. Clarke, County Offices, Sleaford.	Dr. G. Nisbet, Bridge Street, Peterborough.	Dr. J. Glen, Springfield Hospital, Scarthoe, Grimsby.
--	---	--

4. Facilities for laboratory diagnosis of smallpox.

Where laboratory diagnosis is required specimens are sent to Professor A. W. Downie, Bacteriology Department, School of Hygiene, Mount Pleasant, Liverpool, 3.

SECTION VIII—Venereal Disease

Information as to the location, days and hours of the available facilities for the diagnosis and treatment of venereal disease among merchant seamen under international arrangements, including in-patient treatment and the steps taken to make these facilities known to seamen.

NO CHANGE.

SECTION IX—Cases of notifiable and other infectious diseases on ships.

TABLE D

Category	Disease	Number of cases during the year		Number of ships concerned
		Passengers	Crew	
Cases landed from ships from foreign ports.	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Cases which have occurred on ships from foreign ports but have been disposed of before arrival.	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Cases landed from other ships.	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

No cases of Smallpox, Cholera, Plague, Yellow Fever, Typhus or Relapsing Fever occurred during the year 1956.

SECTION X—Observations on the occurrence of malaria in ships

There have been no cases of Malaria occurring on any arriving ship.

SECTION XI—Measures taken against ships infected with or suspected for plague

No “ infected ” or “ suspected ” ships entered the port during 1956.

SECTION XII—Measures against rodents in ships from foreign ports

1. Procedure for inspection of ships for rats.

All ships from “ infected ports ” are searched for evidence of rats (excreta, gnawings, runs, etc.) and traps are set for confirmation of findings. Similar precautions are taken if the crew or stevedores report indications of rats on other ships or if routine inspections reveal suspicious circumstances.

2. Arrangements for the bacteriological or pathological examination of rodents, with special reference to rodent plague, including the number of rodents sent for examination during the year.

Bodies of rodents are sent for routine examination for plague to the Public Health Laboratory, Monsall Hospital, Newton Heath, Manchester 10.

During the year no ships were found to be infested with rats.

3. Arrangements in the district for deratting ships, the methods used, and, if done by a commercial contractor, the name of the contractor.

Boston is not a designated approved port and there are no standing arrangements for the deratting of ships.

4. Progress in the rat-proofing of ships.

Any work found to be necessary is carried out under the supervision of the Port Health Inspector.

TABLE E

Rodents destroyed during the year in ships from foreign ports.

Category	Number
Black rats	Nil
Brown rats	Nil
Species not known	Nil
Sent for examination	Nil
Infected with plague	Nil

TABLE F

Deratting Certificates and Deratting Exemption Certificates issued during the year for ships from foreign ports.

Boston is not a designated approved port and therefore no Deratting Certificates have been issued.

Net tonnage.	No. of Deratting Exemption Certificates issued.
Ships up to 300 tons	17
Ships from 301—1,000 tons	5
Ships from 1,001—3,000 tons	Nil
Total	22

SECTION XIII—Inspection of ships for nuisances.

TABLE G

Inspections and Notices.

Nature and number of Inspections		Notices served		Result of serving Notices
		Statutory Notices	Other Notices	
Defects of Original Construction	128	Nil	Nil	—
Structural Defects through wear and tear	138	Nil	10	5 repairs carried out. 5 sailed before completion.
Dirt, Vermin and other conditions prejudicial to health	140	Nil	12	11 complied with.
Total ..	140	Nil	22	16 complied with.

SECTION XIV—Public Health (Shell-fish) Regulations,
1934 and 1948
NO CHANGE.

SECTION XV—Medical Inspection of Aliens
NO CHANGE.

SECTION XVI—Miscellaneous

Arrangements for the burial on shore of persons who have died on board ship from infectious disease.

NO CHANGE.

